



COLORADO ENVIRONMENTAL PESTICIDE EDUCATION PROGRAM

Pesticide Fact Sheet #136
CEPEP 5/02
Updated 6/06

SECTION 3 PESTICIDE LABELS

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This fact sheet describes what a Section 3 pesticide is and how a Section 3 pesticide is registered.

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Section 3 Pesticide Labels

Under Section 3 of the [Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act](#) (FIFRA), the [Environmental Protection Agency](#) (EPA) can register pesticides for use throughout the U.S. In addition to federal EPA registration under FIFRA, pesticides and pesticidal devices sold, distributed, or advertised in the state of Colorado also require registration with the [Colorado Department of Agriculture](#) (CDA). Section 3 pesticides are the most familiar pesticide labels. Most pesticide uses are registered this way.

Some pesticides are registered by EPA for more limited use in certain states, including Colorado. CDA is able to further limit or restrict use (i.e., state restricted use pesticides, limiting areas or soil types, plant back restrictions, rotational restrictions).

What is Pesticide Registration?

The process of registering a pesticide is a scientific, legal, and administrative procedure through which EPA examines:

- the ingredients of the pesticide
- the particular site or crop on which it is to be used
- the amount, frequency, and timing of its use
- storage and disposal practices

In evaluating a pesticide registration application, EPA assesses a wide variety of potential human health and environmental effects associated with use of the product. The producer of the pesticide must provide data from tests done according to EPA guidelines.

These tests evaluate whether a pesticide has the potential to cause adverse effects on humans, wildlife, fish, and plants, including endangered species and non-target organisms. The tests also evaluate possible contamination of surface water or groundwater from leaching, runoff, and spray drift. Potential human risks range from short-term (acute) toxicity to long-term (chronic) effects such as cancer and reproductive system disorders. EPA also must approve the language that appears on each pesticide label. A pesticide product can only be used legally according to the directions on the labeling accompanying it at the time of sale. Following label instructions carefully and precisely is necessary to ensure safe use (see Pesticide Fact Sheet [The Pesticide Label](#)).

Types of Registrations Under FIFRA

In addition to Section 3 labels, there are several other types of registration actions through which pesticides may be used in the U.S.:

- Section 5 - Experimental Use Permits
- Section 18 - Emergency Exemptions (see Pesticide Fact Sheet [Section 18 Emergency Exemptions](#))
- Section 24(c) - Special Local Needs (see Pesticide Fact Sheet [Section 24\(c\) Pesticide Labels](#))
- Section 25(b) - Minimum Risk Exemption from Registration (see Pesticide Fact Sheet [Section 25\(b\) Pesticide Labels](#))

References and Resources

Application for Colorado Registration of Pesticide Product. 2001. Colorado Department of Agriculture, Division of Plant Industry, Lakewood, CO. <http://www.ag.state.co.us/DPI/Pesticides/pestreg.pdf>.

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Pesticide Registration Kit. 2003. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Pesticide Programs, Washington, D.C. <http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/factsheets/registration.htm>.

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